

November 2021

## President's Letter

Dear LWVSC Friends,

Writing my letter on November 2 – Election Day – has a special meaning for me as a member of the League of Women Voters of Schenectady County. Our League history has everything to do with obtaining the right and having the responsibility to vote. During the past one hundred years, LWV has been registering new voters, educating communities about candidates, issues, and ballot measures, and reminding people about the importance of voting.

In honor of this day, here are several quotes that remind us why we vote...

We do not have a government by the majority. We have a government by the majority who participate.

*Thomas Jefferson*

One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

*Plato*

The most important office, and the one which all of us can and should fill, is that of private citizen.

*Louis Brandeis*

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don't vote.

*George Jean Nathan*

Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.

*Susan B. Anthony*

Happy Election Day and Best Wishes for a bountiful Thanksgiving!

In League,

Ann Hatke



Please join us  
Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm  
**“The Long Road to US Citizenship”**  
Janice Owen, Officer  
US Citizenship Immigration Services  
*(Webex link will be emailed soon)*

### **Save the Date! Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm**

It certainly was a great disappointment when we had to cancel our September luncheon and speaker. However, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has still agreed to hold a virtual presentation for us on the process of obtaining US citizenship and to tell us more about the responsibilities of an immigration officer.

Janice M. Owen, Community Relations Officer from the USCIS District Office in Buffalo, will be talking with us (virtually) on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm.

There will be a Q&A after the presentation, but if you'd like to submit a particular question beforehand, please send it to Ann Hatke at [ash.lwvsc@gmail.com](mailto:ash.lwvsc@gmail.com).

### New Member

Diane Dimond

Diane is retired from work for New York State where she wrote training development manuals, primarily for mentally challenged individuals.

Diane is an avid artist and uses a variety of mediums. She is a member of ECOS and Friends of the Schenectady County Library.

## Help Us Reform Elections for the Better Support our Advocacy Efforts

New York State voters have cast their ballots and elected to reject Proposal 1 - to amend our redistricting processes, Proposal 3 - to eliminate the 10-day voter registration deadline , and Proposal 4 - to authorize no-excuse absentee voting.

While the League also opposed Proposal 1 on the grounds it would unfairly empower the majority party in our state's redistricting process, we are incredibly disappointed that Proposals 3 and 4 have been rejected. Help us ensure our elections continue to be made accessible even without passage of these amendments by making a donation to the League.

Proposals 3 and 4 had the potential to enhance our election processes and increase voter turn out in New York State. While we are disheartened voters have rejected these Proposals, even without passing these amendments there are still significant improvements the Legislature can make to our voter registration and absentee ballot procedures.

The League has already been working diligently to shorten the 25-day registration deadline. In 2018 we partnered with the New York Civil Liberties Union to file a lawsuit to lower the 25-day deadline to constitutionally mandated 10-day registration requirement. That lawsuit is ongoing and is needed now more than ever.

Laura Ladd Bierman  
Executive Director LWVNYS

## Four League Position on Solid Waste

Members of the League of Women Voters in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties agree that the wise management of natural resources respects the interrelationship of land use, water resources, air quality, energy use and waste management.

We support waste and toxicity reduction and environmentally sound methods of recycling and reuse as the primary forms of solid waste management. Programs supporting reduction, recycling and reuse should be given policy and funding priority.

Waste management policies and funding priorities should recognize that many materials which are usually discarded as solid waste are in actuality resources having value; should promote the conservation of primary resources and the extensive reuse, recycling and recovery of manufactured and processed materials; should reduce the toxicity of materials entering the waste stream; and should assure the safe containment of unusable or toxic residues that may remain.

Therefore, the four Leagues support solid waste policies that:

- protect human health and safety;
- promote the wise management of natural resources, including land, wildlife and habitat, water, air and atmosphere, energy and materials;
- promote the conservation of primary materials such as timber, minerals, ores and energy;
- promote the extensive reuse and recycling of secondary materials;
- minimize the effects of hazardous materials in the waste stream;
- make it as easy as possible for people to use legal and responsible waste disposal methods; and
- encourage communities to take responsibility for recycling and waste disposal by locating needed facilities within their boundaries and by cooperating with other communities in the management of solid waste.

At every stage of reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal, the positive and negative impact on the following must be considered:

- public health
- financing
- regulatory provisions
- air and water quality
- land and water resources
- noise levels
- transportation and infrastructure
- economic factors
- energy use
- waste residue
- visual aesthetics

Solid waste management methods should be determined by town, city, or county governments, or by a regional or intermunicipal authority. Federal or State government standards should be considered minimal. The four Leagues support direct involvement by citizens and local governments at all stages of planning, development operation and monitoring of all solid waste management plans and projects.

Construction of solid waste facilities may be financed by various methods, including bonding, grants, waste generator fees, and private funding. Operating costs should be funded primarily by

waste generator fees, sale of recycled materials, fines and penalties, and to a lesser degree by public monies. Standards for operation of solid waste management facilities should be established and enforced by the public sector, whether actual operations are conducted by private or public entities.

Approved: October, 1991

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## **The Redistricting Process is Happening NOW in New York State Are you Prepared to Participate?**

- ‘ **Redistricting happens once every 10 years. The changes to your district that occur now will affect you and your community for a decade.**
- ‘ **Changes to you community’s district can affect the identity, allegiance, and political priorities of your elected representative**

**As a New York State resident, you have the opportunity to participate in the redistricting process.**

**The Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) is accepting comments, testimony and map submissions from the public until November 23.**

### **[Want to learn more?](#)**

Watch this simple mapping training video to learn more about analyzing maps and submitting your testimony to the NYS Redistricting Commission:

<https://youtu.be/r5QUi-Q8sRg>

Learn more about the redistricting process at [nyredistricting.org](http://nyredistricting.org)

President	Ann Hatke
Vice-President	Jude Rabig
Secretary	Heide Westergaard
Bulletin Editor	Helen MacDonald

# It Takes a Village”—Addressing Gun Violence

## League of Women Voters of Albany County Virtual Forum

### November 15, 2021, 7 to 8:30

The League of Women Voters of Albany County will present *“It Takes a Village”*—

**Addressing Gun Violence**, on Monday, November 15, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:30pm. In partnership with the Capital Area Council of Churches and the Rockefeller Institute of Government, the forum will bring together Capital region experts to discuss the tragedy of gun violence.

Participants include:

- \* Craig Apple, Sheriff, Albany County
- Bishop Avery Comithier, Pastor at Elijah Missionary Church,
- Alice Green, Executive Director of the Center for Law and Justice

The panel represent community and faith-based leaders, law enforcement officials, state legislators, and street outreach workers, bringing critical perspective on the toll of gun violence and how we can reduce it through positive changes in education, employment, health and social services, and public safety in Albany.

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sDjqQjOvRY2r44EhS4ApQg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sDjqQjOvRY2r44EhS4ApQg)

Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we’ve studied. Membership makes working on our goals possible.

### Membership for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

**New or Renewing Members Please Confirm This Contact Information**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 Household \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Full time HS student

Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com) with questions about dues or payments. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE** member.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS:** The League depends upon the work of its members, even if for just a short task. Please check any areas that interest you. We appreciate your help. **Judicial** \_\_\_\_\_ **Health** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer Corps** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fund Raising** \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizenship Mentoring Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Environment** \_\_\_\_\_ **Education** \_\_\_\_\_

**Voter Services:** Register Voters \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Forums \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Information \_\_\_\_\_

**Computer Skills:** Graphics/Layout \_\_\_\_\_ Data Bases \_\_\_\_\_ Website Work \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Other Technical Skill(Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_